

Tabled at hearing 14/10/14

BEFORE INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONERS

IN THE MATTER OF the Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER OF the hearing of submissions and proposed Variation 1 (Selwyn-Waihora) to the proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF LEO HENRY DONKERS

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Introduction

- 1 I am a member of the Dunsandel Groundwater Users Association Incorporated ("DGUA"). My involvement in DGUA is as a groundwater user stakeholder. I see huge benefits in this group as a collective for helping its stakeholders manage their water resource.
- 2 I was bought up on a West Coast dairy farm, have worked in Canterbury and Taranaki and studied at Lincoln University. I have lived in the Selwyn area for 21 years. In that time I have had a hands on role in setting up and operating our dairy farming business. We have utilised the ground water resource to initiate land use change from dryland sheep to irrigated dairy. We operate 3 Irrigated dairy farms on 822ha milking 2800 cows, we also operate 2 support land farms, a 320ha partially irrigated farm that provides supplementary and winter feed for our business and a 388ha irrigated farm that grazes all our young stock. Our business also has an interest in 3 equity sharemilking businesses, located within Canterbury.
- 3 I am a member of the South Island Dairy Development Centre (SIDDC) board and have been a farmer delegate on the Management Advisory Group for the Lincoln University dairy farm for the past 10 years. These entities are charged with achieving the strategic objectives of the Lincoln University Dairy Farm and developing profitable and environmentally sustainable dairying in the South Island. We are also involved with Lincoln University in hosting agricultural classes and our farms are used for student projects. Our farms have been involved with trial work involving Dairy NZ, Plant & Food and Agresearch on a wide range of topics, which have included pasture growth rate trials, Forage brassica yield trials and Cow Lameness trials.
- 4 There are currently 70-80 members members in DGUA, these are listed in the attached Appendix A. Many of our members were part of a comprehensive consent review process between 2006-2012, whereby Ecan reviewed the consents to require annual volumes, water metering and, initially, adaptive management conditions (this was later abandoned by ECan). This group represented 179 consents, therefore our members often hold one or more resource consent to take and use water.
- 5 The approximate number of hectares irrigated by the members of DGUA is around 26,000 – 30,000ha. The membership is made up of around 70% dairy farming interests, 20% mixed cropping and 10% other (horticulture etc). Appendix B contains a map showing the general location of the group's members.
- 6 DGUA was formed in 1997 to represent the interests of groundwater users located on the Upper Plains of Central Canterbury. This area, as outlined in Appendix B covers an area between the Rakaia River (south) and the Selwyn River (North), Te Pirita (West) and Killinchy (East). The group covers irrigators with the catchment referred to as Rakaia-Selwyn Groundwater Zone.
- 7 The Association was established as an Incorporated Society at its formation. The Association has advocated for its members on a range of water management issues, participating in building awareness around good irrigation practice, science and understanding of our water systems and protecting the investment many landowners have made into their properties, through accessing reliable water. The Associations first work involved discussions with Orion around electrical network pricing and upgrades in the area. The group has been successful at obtaining Sustainable Farming Funds, ex MAF to better understand

water flows in this zone and later build a model through Aqualinc, which is still used today in understanding groundwater flow patterns.

- 8 DGUA has participated in a number of planning issues associated with water in the catchment since its formation. The notable ones include The Natural Resources Regional Plan, which ran between 2004-2012. The Land and Water Plan and currently Variation 1. Of particular importance to the group is the consent review process of 2006-2010. The group responded effectively to the review notices, structuring themselves for the hearing and later Environment Court appeal. A long period of Court facilitated mediation saw the review completed in 2012 and new consent conditions agreed for most members.
- 9 DGUA is participating in Variation 1 because we are worried about the robustness of the science, participation and openness of the planning process, the potential constraints of on-farm irrigation and reliability and importantly maintaining viable businesses and protection of investments within our community.

Transfer of permits

- 10 When we obtained our initial consents it cost around \$10 000 - \$20 000, however this was in 1997. However costs for obtaining consents in the more recent hearing process, which was finally decided in 2008 were more likely between \$50,000 - \$70,000. We have spent considerable amounts in the last decade on plan changes and the consent review process.
- 11 The capital irrigation infrastructure cost for our 300ha dairy farm in Te Pirita, which was converted in 1999, which has two, 200m deep bores and one 100m bore and is pumping from a SWL pumping of 95m, has been \$600,000, excluding irrigation plant, such as rotary boom irrigators. The annual depreciated cost of this at 5% equates to \$100 per hectare. Today's cost for the equivalent infrastructure would be \$1.4 million. In 2010 we installed a 700m pivot, with a corner arm that covered half the farm area. This pivot upgrade cost our farming business \$320,000. This upgrade added flexibility and efficiency to our irrigation setup, with the future opportunity to add VRI to this pivot, further enhancing the water use efficiency. Electrical supply pylons across the property exclude further pivot infrastructure being installed.
- 12 In the Te Pirita area for deep well abstraction these costs are very typical. These costs fall as bore depths and SWL become shallower.
- 13 Although we have spent a lot on plans and reviews, we know if an individual went through these processes alone they would be significantly more. These costs therefore illustrate the power of a collective group, sharing costs and aligning resources.
- 14 We have invested in moisture monitoring equipment to aid our irrigation management and more efficiently use our water. This also gives us electricity cost savings. We have flow meter technology on all of our wells which allow us to monitor water use. This water use data is sent directly to Ecan which then allows both parties to monitor our irrigation consent conditions. We are looking into VRI to increase our water use efficiency even more.
- 15 Our approach to investment is very typical of the group.
- 16 I am a member of CPW. I estimate about 50% of our group is.
- 17 The capital cost of construction shares in CPW Stage One is \$1750/ha and an annual operating cost of \$700/ha. This is a standard cost for CPW Stage One.

- 18 All CPW shareholders have to sign up to a water use agreement. The more efficiently each farm uses the water the cheaper it will be for them.
- 19 We hope to transfer our groundwater consents to CPW eventually. If we can gain high reliability from CPW then we will write off our deep well infrastructure. Orion has suggested that our line charges will remain the same even when we do not use our deep well pumps, this will make it uneconomical to leave the electrical network supply in place.
- 20 It is very important to us that we retain the ability to transfer groundwater. Particularly if we want to irrigate another farm in the CPW catchment that does not have CPW shares or wider groundwater catchment.

8.5 years out of 10 reliability (rather than 9 out of 10)

- 21 Reliable water is very important to us and the group. The seasonal nature of farming suggests we need water available throughout the irrigation season. The September 2013 wind storm affect has come at a huge cost to several of our farms. Due to irrigator damage and the inability to effectively water these farms, through the spring of 2013, productivity fell. This meant decreasing the stocking rate, more supplementary feed required and now significant areas requiring repasturing.
- 22 In a dry season we will irrigate from October till March, six months. Since having volume limits applied we have managed to irrigate within our consents, but have had to manage the autumn irrigation so as not to breach our consented volume. We have only held this revised consent since the completion of the review process and the subsequent seasons have been more favourable than normal.
- 23 The group is mainly on the same soil type, with the same land use and in the same rainfall area, so we are all exposed to the regional effects which impact on reliability and how much of the volume is used.
- 24 The last three years of my use would not be a good representation of how much water I need for my farm. Statistically we need a longer representative period. The last three years have been wetter than normal. For example irrigation last season (2013/2014) commenced mid November and ceased in early March, on average the total volume applied would have been about 300-400mm. However we have already started irrigation for the 14/15 season by October.

Adaptive management conditions

- 25 We do not have any Adaptive Management Consents.
- 26 A number of our members hold consents with adaptive management conditions. Without specifically knowing the detail of all members individual consents I can estimate that around 30 of our members would be subject to adaptive management provisions, when these consents were granted in 2008.

- 27 These consents have a lower reliability because they are subject to meeting and exceeding an annual trigger level. The conditions mean that sometimes no water can be taken. Other times, less than the allocated amount can be taken. They are less transferrable and subsequently hold less value, due to a number of requirements.

Dated: Thirteen day of October 2014



Leo Henry Donkers

Rakaia-Selwyn Groundwater Zone - Consent Review

Updated 25th August 2009

List of Consent Holders Sponsoring the Joint Submission

No.	Consent Holder Name	Consent No.	Irrigated Area (ha)	Hydraulic Connection	River/Stream Connection	Connection* %
1	Alderbrook Farm Ltd.	CRC 031084.3	180	N	-	-
2	Alpro Farms Ltd	CRC 990069.2	115	N	-	-
3	Alpro Farms Ltd	CRC 950360.3	15	N	-	-
4	Alpro Farms Ltd	CRC 981476.3	55	N	-	-
5	AS & AC Chaffey Ltd.	CRC 010350.3	517	N	-	-
6	AT & SA Thomas	CRC 000359.1	78	N	-	-
7	B & K Falkingham	CRC 962164.3	10	N	-	-
8	B & R Marshall	CRC 020694.1	4	N	-	-
9	B & S Rolls	CRC 010814.1	144	N	-	-
10	B & S Rolls	CRC 961668.2	115	N	-	-
11	BE & JE Symes Family Trust.	CRC 961411.3	136	N	-	-
12	BE & JE Symes Family Trust.	CRC 990284.3	50	N	-	-
13	Braisby Holdings Ltd.	CRC 992172.2	381	N	-	-
14	Braisby Holdings Ltd.	CRC 992214.2		N	-	-
15	Broadacres Blackcurrants Ltd.	CRC 952489.2	100	N	-	-
16	Brookton Farm Ltd.	CRC 010344.3	50	N	-	-
17	Brookton Farm Ltd.	CRC 010775.2	148	N	-	-
18	Brookton Farm Ltd.	CRC 97148.3	130	N	-	-
19	Bruce Sheat	CRC 011916.3	22	N	-	-
20	Burmout Holdings Ltd.	CRC 010784.2	167	N	-	-
21	Burmout Holdings Ltd.	CRC 980424.3		N	-	-
22	Burmout Holdings Ltd.	CRC 011174.1		N	-	-
23	Camden Dairy Farms Ltd.	CRC 961180.2	221	N	-	-
24	Canlac Holdings Ltd.	CRC 990700.2	342	N	-	-
25	Canterbury Pastoral Ltd.	CRC 001917	346	N	-	-
26	Canterbury Pastoral Ltd.	CRC 960322		N	-	-
27	Carrieante Farm Ltd.	CRC 020084.1	210	N	-	-
28	Cascade Farm Ltd.	CRC 010821.2	88	N	-	-
29	CG & AM Janson	CRC 020259.1	384	N	-	-
30	CJ & PM Prattley	CRC 022120.2	35	Y	Boggy Creek	-
31	CJ & PM Prattley	CRC 020890.1	24	N	-	-
32	CJ & PM Prattley	CRC 010723.1	55	N	-	-
33	CJ Prattley	CRC 011510.2	114	Y	Boggy Creek	-
34	Clearview Dairies Ltd.	CRC 962471.2	178	N	-	-
35	Clover Nook Farm Ltd.	CRC 961509.2	210	N	-	-
36	Connesh Farms Ltd.	CRC 000994.1	110	N	-	-
37	D.B. & R.G. Hayes	CRC 990640.1	450	Y	Rakaia	88.0%
38	D.B. & R.G. Hayes	CRC 052748		N	-	-
39	Delaware Holdings Ltd.	CRC 961477.3	355	N	-	-
40	Delaware Holdings Ltd.	CRC 961549.4		N	-	-
41	Delaware Holdings Ltd.	CRC 980094.2		N	-	-
42	Delhaven Farms Ltd.	CRC 021021.2	216	N	-	-
43	Fairfax Stonehouse Farm Ltd.	CRC 962531.3	246	N	-	-
44	Ferriman Family Trust	CRC 040665.2	244	N	-	-
45	Ferriman Family Trust	CRC 040666.1		N	-	-
46	Ferriman Family Trust	CRC 011264.4		N	-	-
47	Fitzallan Rural Ltd.	CRC 010549.2	86	N	-	-
48	FJ & BJ Gilbert	CRC 970872.2	65	N	-	-
49	FJ & BJ Gilbert	CRC 010836.1	156	N	-	-
50	FJ & BJ Gilbert	CRC 000077.1	71	N	-	-
51	G & K Joyce	CRC 010985.1	40	N	-	-
52	Geddes Family Trust	CRC 002078.1	360	N	-	-
53	Geddes Family Trust	CRC 962120.1		N	-	-
54	Geddes Family Trust	CRC 012879.1		N	-	-
55	Gift Farms Ltd.	CRC 021391.2	109	N	-	-
56	Gift Farms Ltd.	CRC 980093.3	187	N	-	-
57	GJ & H Hillier	CRC 010664	100	N	-	-
58	Glenmore Farming Co. Ltd.	CRC 010825.2	198	N	-	-
59	Glenmore Farming Co. Ltd.	CRC 022197		N	-	-
60	Glenmore Farming Co. Ltd.	CRC 001253.1		N	-	-
61	Glenmore Farming Co. Ltd.	CRC 970078		N	-	-
62	Gregory Jane Ltd.	CRC 021498	192	N	-	-
63	Groundwater Holdings Ltd.	CRC 962277.2	337	Y	Selwyn	-
64	Groundwater Holdings Ltd.	CRC 031466.2		N	-	-
65	Groundwater Holdings Ltd.	CRC 991950.1		N	-	-
66	Groundwater Holdings Ltd.	CRC 041074.1		N	-	-

Rakaia-Selwyn Groundwater Zone - Consent Review

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						%
67	H.S. & G.D. Schat	CRC 972063	228	N	-	-
68	Harpree Farm Ltd.	CRC 031159.1	83	N	-	-
69	Hibbell Holdings Ltd.	CRC 011209.3	123	N	-	-
70	Ian Upston	CRC 030208.2	27	N	-	-
71	J M Pangborn	CRC 992187.1	75	N	-	-
72	J&A Gray Family Trust	CRC 012881.2	235	N	-	-
73	J&A Gray Family Trust	CRC 052034.2		N	-	-
74	J.H. Drenth	CRC 961878.2	224	N	-	-
75	J.H. Drenth	CRC 992592.1		N	-	-
76	JM & AH Grigg	CRC 020893	250	N	-	-
77	JM & AH Grigg	CRC 031703	450	N	-	-
78	John James Cromie	CRC 010422	263	N	-	-
79	John G McDrury	CRC 010438.1	93	N	-	-
80	John G McDrury	CRC 991609.3	169	N	-	-
81	JG & AJ McDrury	CRC 054868.1	183	N	-	-
82	JPV & T Kirsten	CRC 991889.2	67	N	-	-
83	JR & J McKenzie Trust	CRC 050052.1	192	N	-	-
84	K & K Stone	CRC 012437.2	14	N	-	-
85	K & K Stone	CRC 001251.2	89	N	-	-
86	Karalea Ltd.	CRC 000982	276	N	-	-
87	Karalea Ltd.	CRC 042065		N	-	-
88	Kauarel Farm Ltd.	CRC 992126.2	220	N	-	-
89	Kenburn Farm	CRC 012682.3	393	N	-	-
90	Kenburn Farm	CRC 990556.4		Y	Rakaia	82.2%-83.9%
91	Kilvarock Farm Ltd.	CRC 040301	110	Y	Rakaia	91.0%
92	Kilvarock Farm Ltd.	CRC 970851		Y	Rakaia	98.3%
93	Koudja Farm Partnership	CRC 020253.2		10	N	-
94	L & P Blanchet	CRC 030770	6	N	-	-
95	Lamasen Holdings Ltd.	CRC 011467.1	287	N	-	-
96	LH Donkers & KE Chambers	CRC 040625	9	N	-	-
97	Longmead Farm	CRC 991532.3	177	N	-	-
98	Mackie Farms Ltd.	CRC 962536.1	200	N	-	-
99	Malmar Farm Ltd.	CRC 010199.1	102	N	-	-
100	Malmar Farm Ltd.	CRC 000902.2	360	N	-	-
101	MB & MJ Ridgen Trustees Ltd. & Mr. MB Ridgen	CRC 010719.3	120	N	-	-
102	MG & G Dewhirst	CRC 001038.2	458	N	-	-
103	Mr N J Adams & Mr J W Drummond & Mr J R Honeybone	CRC 951758.5	21	N	-	-
104	Mr W P McDrury & Ms V L Wilkison-McDrury	CRC 000877.1	122	N	-	-
105	Murray Ross Keeley	CRC 992269.1	290	N	-	-
106	N. Greenwood	CRC 011093.1	153	Y	Selwyn	-
107	N. Greenwood	CRC 952058.1	121	N	-	-
108	Neuways Farm Ltd.	CRC 940575.2	20	N	-	-
109	Neuways Farm Ltd.	CRC 010702.1	139	N	-	-
110	Oakdale Farm Ltd.	CRC 020301.1	26	N	-	-
111	Pinedale Farm Ltd.	CRC 962105.3	40	N	-	-
112	Pineview Holdings Ltd.	CRC 021547.1	180	N	-	-
113	Prairie Farm Ltd.	CRC 010056.1	280	N	-	-
114	Prairie Farm Ltd.	CRC 020218.1	0	N	-	-
115	R N & E J Davidson	CRC 010800.2	495	N	-	-
116	R N & E J Davidson Farms Limited	CRC 962278.2		N	-	-
117	R N & E J Davidson Farms Limited	CRC 032167.2		N	-	-
118	R N & E J Davidson Farms Limited	CRC 021349.2		N	-	-
119	R.D. Michael (Doug)	CRC 981997.1		93	N	-
120	Rakaia Dairy Ltd.	CRC 020146.2	190	N	-	-
121	Rakaia Island Dairies Ltd.	CRC 020692.2	967	N	-	-
122	Rakaia Island Dairies Ltd.	CRC 031217.1		Y	Rakaia	-
123	Rakaia Island Dairies Ltd.	CRC 031344.1		N	-	-
124	Ray Barnett	CRC 010818.1	43	N	-	-
125	Remna Investments Ltd.	CRC 010576.1	267	N	-	-
126	RF & SL Seebeck	CRC 941030.1	14	N	-	-
127	RF Seebeck	CRC 010622.1	50	N	-	-
128	RT & MJ Michael (Trevor)	CRC 010538.1	166	N	-	-
129	SC & KA Boon	CRC 001720.1	320	N	-	-
130	SC & KA Boon	CRC 022130.1		N	-	-
131	Selwyn Dairy Ltd.	CRC 010574.4	315	N	-	-
132	SF & RA Mundt	CRC 010171.2	62	N	-	-
133	SF & RA Mundt	CRC 010172.2	133	N	-	-
134	Sheugh Ventures Ltd.	CRC 040371.1	10	N	-	-

Rakaia-Selwyn Groundwater Zone - Consent Review						Updated	25th August 2009
List of Consent Holders Sponsoring the Joint Submission							
No.	Consent Holder Name	Consent No.	Irrigated Area (ha)	Hydraulic Connection	River/Stream Connection	Connection*	
						%	
135	Silverdale Farm Ltd.	CRC 960889.3	285	N	-	-	
136	SM & WS Boon	CRC 001721.2	101	N	-	-	
137	Stuartfield Farms Ltd.	CRC 083514.1.	48	N	-	-	
138	Stuartfield Farms Ltd.	CRC 011500.2	181	N	-	-	
139	Synlait Ltd.	CRC 030757	2,063	Y	Rakaia	81.2%-92.3%	
140	Synlait Ltd.	CRC 012487		N	-	-	
141	Synlait Ltd.	CRC 001747		N	-	-	
142	Synlait Ltd.	CRC 021157		N	-	-	
143	Synlait Ltd.	CRC 011445		N	-	-	
144	Synlait Ltd.	CRC 970050		N	-	-	
145	T H Enterprises	CRC 21806.2	150	N	-	-	
146	Tallarook Dairies Ltd.	CRC 020241.1	313	N	-	-	
147	Tallarook Dairies Ltd.	CRC 990229.2		N	-	-	
148	TD Robilliard	CRC 971664.1	30	N	-	-	
149	TD Robilliard	CRC 940896.1	109	N	-	-	
150	Te Pirita Dairy Ltd.	CRC 980096.2	297	N	-	-	
151	Terrace Farm Holdings Ltd.	CRC 010572.4	372	N	-	-	
152	TG & AH Hobson	CRC 000376.2	848	Y	Rakaia	90.5%-96.2%	
153	TJ & H Hamilton	CRC 001690.1	45	N	-	-	
154	TJ & H Hamilton	CRC 990347.2	276	N	-	-	
155	Tobruk Farm Ltd.	CRC 010966.4	194	N	-	-	
156	Tripleton Farm Ltd.	CRC 021054.1	48	N	-	-	
157	Tripleton Farm Ltd.	CRC 010938.1	45	N	-	-	
158	Tripleton Farm Ltd.	CRC 022747.2	35	N	-	-	
159	Tui Company Ltd.	CRC 001425.1	164	N	-	-	
160	Twin River Dairies Ltd.	CRC 981315.4	182	N	-	-	
161	W.A. & J.T. Scarlett	CRC 962373.2	51	N	-	-	
162	Waikirikiri Partnership.	CRC 020480	110	N	-	-	
163	Westmere Co. (2007) Ltd.	CRC031150.1	132	N	-	-	
164	Willsden Farm Ltd.	CRC 982191.2	414	N	-	-	
165	WS Boon	CRC 010581.2	114	N	-	-	
166	Yetsna Foods Ltd.	CRC 941062.7	10	N	-	-	
TOTAL AREA (HA)			24,772				
* A percentage range denotes the take occurs from more than one bore or well.							
LATE ADDITIONS							
No.	Consent Holder Name	Consent No.	Irrigated Area (ha)	Hydraulic Connection	River/Stream Connection	Connection*	
						%	
167	AL & EM Wolff	CRC 97913.2	275	N	-	-	
168	Viewbank Dairy Ltd.	CRC 001820.2	120	N	-	-	
169	Heslerton Station Ltd.	CRC 970924.2	279	N	-	-	
Revised Total Area			25,445				
FURTHER ADDITIONS (since 7th July 2009)							
170	Fitzallan Rural Ltd.	CRC 094089	20	N	-	-	
171	Mr & Mrs J W & C M Blue	CRC 010537.2	33	Y	Hororata	-	
Further Revised Total Area			25,499				



Google earth

